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The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"Certain representatives of the tenants were approached, but they refused to serve. Two others were then asked and one of them has accepted."

Mr. K R. Karant :—"May I know if it is not a fact that the Committee is going to take evidence and if so, when the Government is going to make the appointments?"

The hon. Mr. A Y. G. Campbell :—"One appointment has been made and no more will be made."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know who the representatives were that refused to the offer?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"I must ask for notice."

Panchayat Courts

Alleged irregularities in the election to the Pudupadi Village Panchayat Court.

* 682 Q.—Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that at a panchayat court election held at a public place, a chavadi of Pudupadi village, Wallajah taluk, North Arcot district, the presiding officer arranged the Brahmans in a central hall, non-Brahmans at a back verandah and Adi-Dravidas at a distance of 38 feet from the north-west corner of the chavadi and out of the west-end limit of a Brahman street;

(b) whether it is a fact that such an arrangement kept the Adi-Dravidas out of view of other communities, thereby depriving them of votes from non-Brahmans;

(c) whether it is a fact that Adi-Dravidas were kept in the sun, standing for more than an hour;

(d) whether it is a fact that while some of them went about to shelter and quench their thirst, the presiding officer suddenly called upon them to vote for their candidate;

(e) whether it is a fact that the presiding officer allowed six non-resident non-Brahmans to vote;

(f) whether a Government salaried officer—a branch postmaster—was one of the candidates;

(g) whether objections were raised then and there to these irregularities and whether the presiding officer paid no heed;

(h) why the Revenue Divisional Officer did not inquire into the objection petition submitted by the Adi-Dravida candidate, Rangaswami;

(i) (1) the name of the presiding officer,
(2) the name of the Revenue Divisional Officer,
(3) the names of elected members and the number of votes each had, and
(4) the number of votes the Adi-Dravida candidate had; and

(j) whether the Government propose to cancel the election and order a re-election?

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A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) No. The election was held in the village chavadi and for want of sufficient accommodation some of the voters had to remain behind the chavadi and some in front of it. The Adi-Dravidas were not shut out of view nor were they kept standing in the sun.

(*d*) None of the Adi-Dravidas left the place until the elections were over.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Yes. A branch postmaster was one of the candidates.

(*g*) No objections were raised at the time of election.

(*h*) The objection petition was not presented in time.

(*i*) (1) M.R.Ry. C. Rajagopalachariar, Sub-Magistrate, Wallajah.
(2) ,, V. S. Asvatha Ayyar Avargal.

		Number of votes.
(3)	(i) K. Doraiswami Ayyar	78
	(ii) M. Govindachariar	76
	(iii) P. Bashyam Ayyangar	75
	(iv) P. S. Nageswara Ayyar	74
	(v) P. A. Lakshmana Ayyar	74
	(vi) P. A. Venkatarama Ayyar	72
(4)	Rangaswami	64

(*j*) No. Under rule 18 (*b*) of the rules framed under the Madras Village Courts Act, the order of the Revenue Divisional Officer is final.

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" The answer says that the election was held in the village chavadi and for want of sufficient accommodation some of the voters had to remain behind the chavadi and some in front of it. May I know if it is not the duty of the presiding officer to arrange a place where there will be sufficient accommodation for all people to take part in the election ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" Certainly. I presume that the officer made the best arrangement possible."

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" The answer says for want of accommodation some people were made to stand. Does the Government think that sufficient arrangement for accommodation was made ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" Evidently, I cannot give further information."

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" Does the Government expect people standing behind the chavadi which I take it will be enclosed by four walls can take part really in the election ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" I have no information whether the chavadi was enclosed by four walls or not."